

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: JAWORSKI MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR LAUNCHES
NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 141937, (B) STATE 119866

1. HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE SPECIAL COUNSEL JAWORSKI, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PETER WHITE, MET AT THE DEPARTMENT JUNE 6 WITH ROK AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK. KIM WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSELORS PARK KUN-WOO AND KIM SUK-KYU. NO DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED THE MEETING WITH BOTH SIDES.
2. UNLIKE THE IMPASSE OF THE MAY 11 MEETING (REF B), WHICH WAS FOLLOWED DIRECTLY BY THE JAWORSKI EFFORT TO ENGAGE CONGRESSIONAL LEVERAGE AND A RESOLUTION DEMANDING TESTIMONY BY FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK, THE MEETING
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TODAY WAS MARKED BY POSITIVE EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES TO
EXPLORE MEANS FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM.

3. THE PRINCIPAL NEW STEP SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN JAWORSKI'S STATEMENT THAT SUBSTANCE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FORMALISM AND, IF MEANS COULD BE FOUND TO OBTAIN HELPFUL INFORMATION FROM THE FORMER AMBASSADOR, THE MATTER OF FORM COULD BE

ADJUSTED. OUT OF THE DISCUSSION THEN EMERGED A PROPOSAL WHICH WE UNDERSTAND TO BE THAT JAWORSKI WOULD PROVIDE TO ROK EMBASSY INFORMATION ON THE EVIDENCE HE HOLDS AND QUESTIONS TO BE POSED TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM. ROKG WOULD THEN ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN ANSWERS LIMITED STRICTLY TO QUESTION OF WHICH CONGRESSMEN WERE OFFERED OR ACCEPTED MONEY UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES. SUBSTANCE OF RESPONSE WOULD BE PROVIDED IN FIRST INSTANCE IN NATURE OF TENTATIVE DRAFT AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DIALOGUE AND REFINEMENT. ONLY AS LAST STEP WOULD QUESTION ARISE AS TO SIGNATURE OR ATTESTATION. POSSIBLE ROLE FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OR U.S. AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL MENTIONED BUT NOT DEFINED.

4. BOTH PARTIES TO THE CONVERSATION HAVE EMPHASIZED TO DEPARTMENT THAT THEY ARE MUCH ENCOURAGED BY TODAY'S CONVERSATION AND THAT DISCUSSIONS AT THIS JUNCTURE WILL BE HELD VERY CLOSELY. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK EMPHASIZED THE QUOTE NEW FLEXIBILITY UNQUOTE SHOWN BY JAWORSKI AND STATED THAT AMBASSADOR KIM WILL BE SENDING A LENGTHY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION TO SEOUL IMMEDIATELY FOR REVIEW BY ROKG AND KIM DONG-JO. ROK EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS AS SEPARATE FROM THE INFORMAL SUGGESTION MADE EARLIER BY FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TO AMBASSADOR SNEIDER (AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE).

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5. OF MAJOR CONCERN TO AMBASSADOR KIM HERE CONTINUES TO BE THE FACT THAT KIM DONG-JO HAS NOT YET BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION AT THE BLUE HOUSE. HE IS THUS CONSIDERING A PERSONAL TRIP TO SEOUL FOR CONSULTATION. HOWEVER, ROK EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED SPECIAL SESSION JUNE 14 AND 15 TO INTERPOLATE THE ROKG ON KIM DONG-JO ISSUE AND U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION. KIM DOES NOT WISH TO BE IN SEOUL AT THAT TIME. HE FEELS IF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION CAN BE AVOIDED THEN ROKG CONSIDERATION OF CURRENT KIM DONG-JO OPTIONS CAN BE EXPEDITED, BUT OTHERWISE MAY HAVE TO AWAIT END OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS.

6. COMMENT: IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT SUCCESS, OR WHAT THE EFFECTS OF "SUCCESS" MIGHT BE, BUT WE MAY BE CLOSE TO TESTING WHETHER THERE ARE ANY PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTANTIVE REPLIES FROM KIM DONG-JO IF THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS MOVE TO THE SIDE. ONE CONSIDERATION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN TODAY'S MEETING WAS THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN WELL AND SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED BY USG

STATEMENTS AND NO LONGER MUST BE IN THE FOREFRONT. VANCE

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